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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Condition of Women in the Stettin Area: Child Care/ Jeba/Clething/Cost of Equipment

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. "Women are much worse off under Communism than in Independent Poland. Formerly the income of the father of a family sufficed for all his dependents. Now all members of the family, including the mother, have to work in order to make ends meet.

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### 'Zlobeks'

"The small children of pre-school age are handed in at kindergartens ('zlobeks') at 7 am and stay there until 5 pm. There are enough zlobeks for all children but they give poor care: for 65 children there may be only one nurse, usually a half-trained girl with no more qualifications than a six-months course in nursing. The children get poor foed, badly cooked, so that many fall ill. If one child has some contagious ailment all the others catch it, for the sick children are not isolated. Owing to the lack of supervision the children often fight among themselves and return home in a battered state. At the zlobeks the children must learn Communist songs. They were taught to call Stalin grandfather ('diadzek Stalin'). They are asked about what the parents say at home.

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On the whole, however,

Communist propaganda among young children does not have much influence - the children take after their parents.

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#### Jobs

- "To earn a living, women must take all sorts of heavy jobs. They sweep chimneys, drive trucks, work in the construction industry (where they usually carry loads) and on the docks. They work side by side with men. They dress like men, wear old discarded men's suits, tie their hair in a dirty handkerchief, use bad language and forget that they are women. If they have no particular qualifications, they actually prefer such physical work as it pays better than the lower office jobs.
- "But most of the vomen would much prefer to stay at home and do housework. The alleged independence of a job of one's own is not valued at all. It is true that if a woman does a man's job, she also gets a man's vage. She receives no sick leave. If she is pregnant, she gets no leave prior to childbirth, only three months at full pay after the birth. If she does not return to work after those three months, she loses her job.
- "Membership in the CP is important for getting a job, though one may even get an administrative post without it through "social promotion" ("avens spolecany").

  A charwoman may get an effice job if she has charred long enough and has been active politically. Such office workers are a terrible nuisance: sometimes they can hardly read or write. At the Specialists Polyelinic in Sacsecin there was a cleaning woman, Eugenia Wojczechowska, who had worked there for three and a half years. Because she was a CP member she was promoted to be a doctor's secretary. She made a mess of everything, but Dr. Jakubowski, the manager of the polyelinic and a Communist, refused to do anything, saying she would learn in time or be sent to a course. No top job 50X1-HUM can be obtained by a woman, even with the best of training, if she is not a CP 50X1-HUM member.

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  Because she would learn in time or be sent to a course. No top job 50X1-HUM as a brilliant young woman lawyer in Pesnan whose father had been a 50X1-HUM as salary of 450 zl. Female Communists without any training have jebs at 800-900 zl menthly. Semetimes qualified woman are dismissed to make room for a CP activist.

#### MIT WATERCO

- The regime would like to make the women think of nothing but their work, but whenever they can they dress as prettily as possible. There is no active propaganda against this but one must be somewhat careful. If a woman is really chic, the UB may ask questions: from where did you get these things; do you have relatives abroad who send them to you?
  - "There are beauty parlours in the large towns, but they are expensive and the cosmetics they sell are not good. Some sell snuggled goeds too, eg Max Factor lipsticks costing 287 zl. A facial and makeup cost 45 zl. A good permanent wave in Warsaw (about the same quality as the West) costs 180 zl. An ordinary permanent costs 35 zl, but it maker black hair turn reddish. The dying of grey hair costs 120 zl, but the dye comes out in a few weeks.

"The interest in fashions is great. There is only one fashion magazine in Poland - Swiat Mody - which costs 10 21 and appears once a year. No patterns are available. The ready-made clothes industry offers little variety. Each model is made up in thousands of copies. Everybody dresses more or less alike, mostly in cheap garments as a good woollen dress costs 1200 zl. Even a pretty silk scarf costs 500 zl. Everybody who is at all good at dressmaking sews for herself and invents her own fashions. Mostly this means making over one's old things.

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9. "Young people study or work most of the time. If they have free maments between lectures, they queue for the family. Nobody can afford to spend much money on amusements: a theatre ticket costs 9-15 zl, a cinema ticket 3.60 - 6 zl and one must queue for several hours.

A glass of coffee with sems milk and sugar and a cake would cost nine zloty.

## Household Equipment

10. "Furniture is very expensive: a bedroom set costs 4500 sl; a dimingroom set, six thousand zl; a couch, 800-1800 sl; a table and six pedded chairs, 1200 sl; an iron bedstead with a mattress is 600 sl; a kitchen set (table, cupbeard, 2 chairs, a bench, a tamel rack) costs 2500 sl. An aluminium saucepan bolding 2.5 lt costs 25 sl; a plate, five to seven pl; a simple spoon, knife or fork 2.50 sl; an aluminium teakettle 60 sl; a coffee grander 75 zl; a thin Turkish towel 18 sl; a sheet 60 sl; a pillow slip 35 sl; a quilt 180-600 sl. The quilts are of fairly good material but stuffed with cotton and woel, not down."

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